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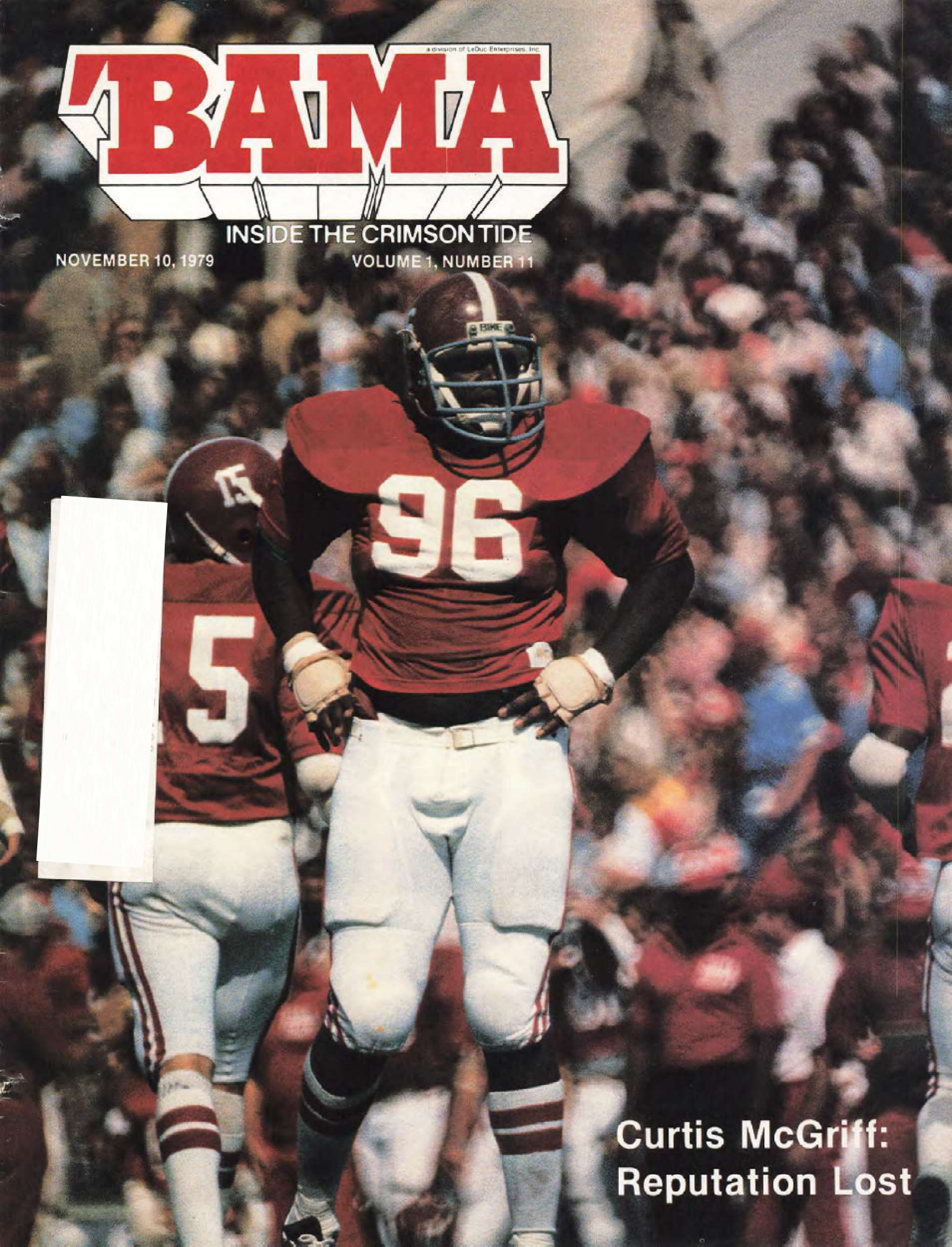
BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

NOVEMBER 10, 1979 VOLUME 1, NUMBER 11



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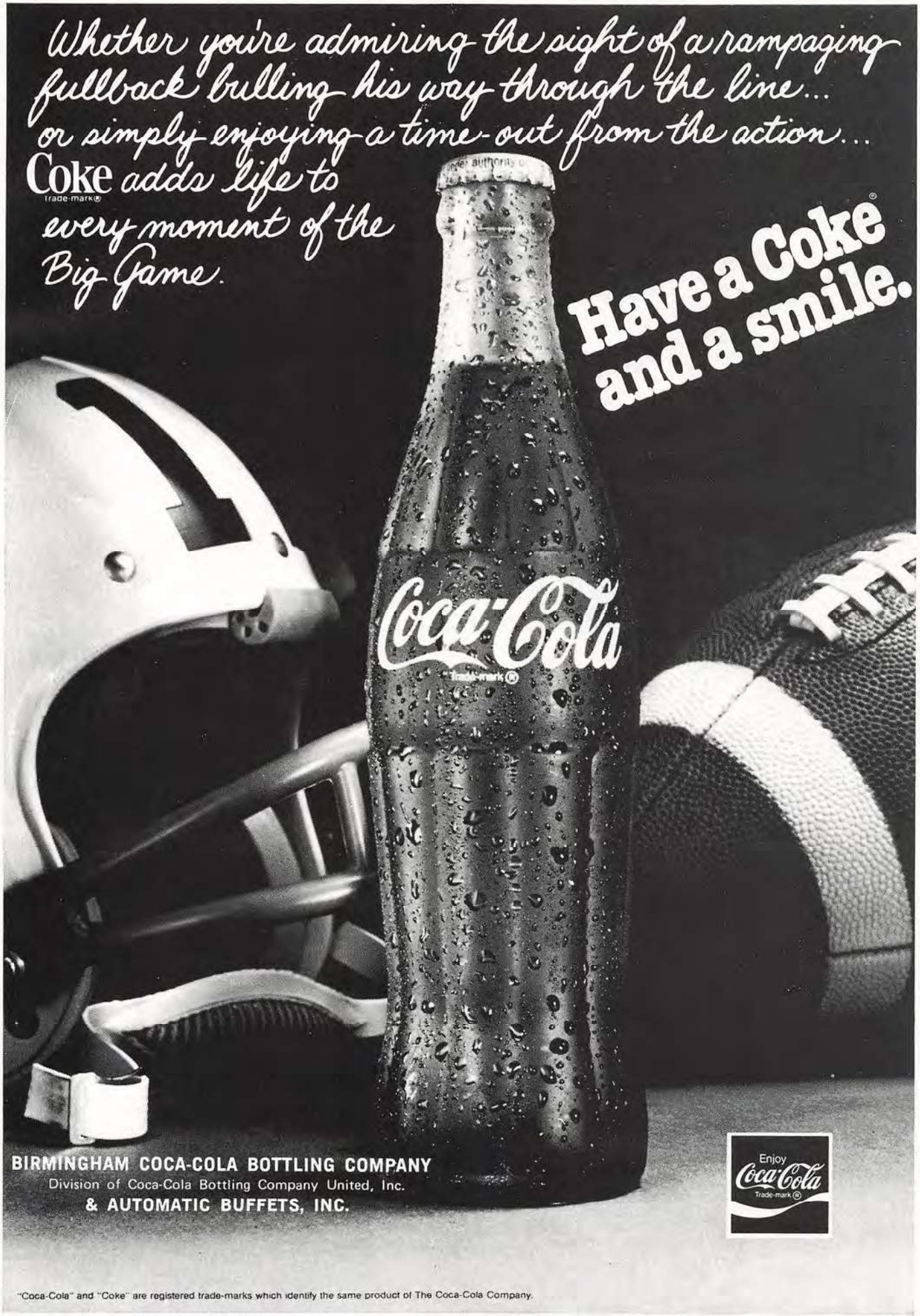
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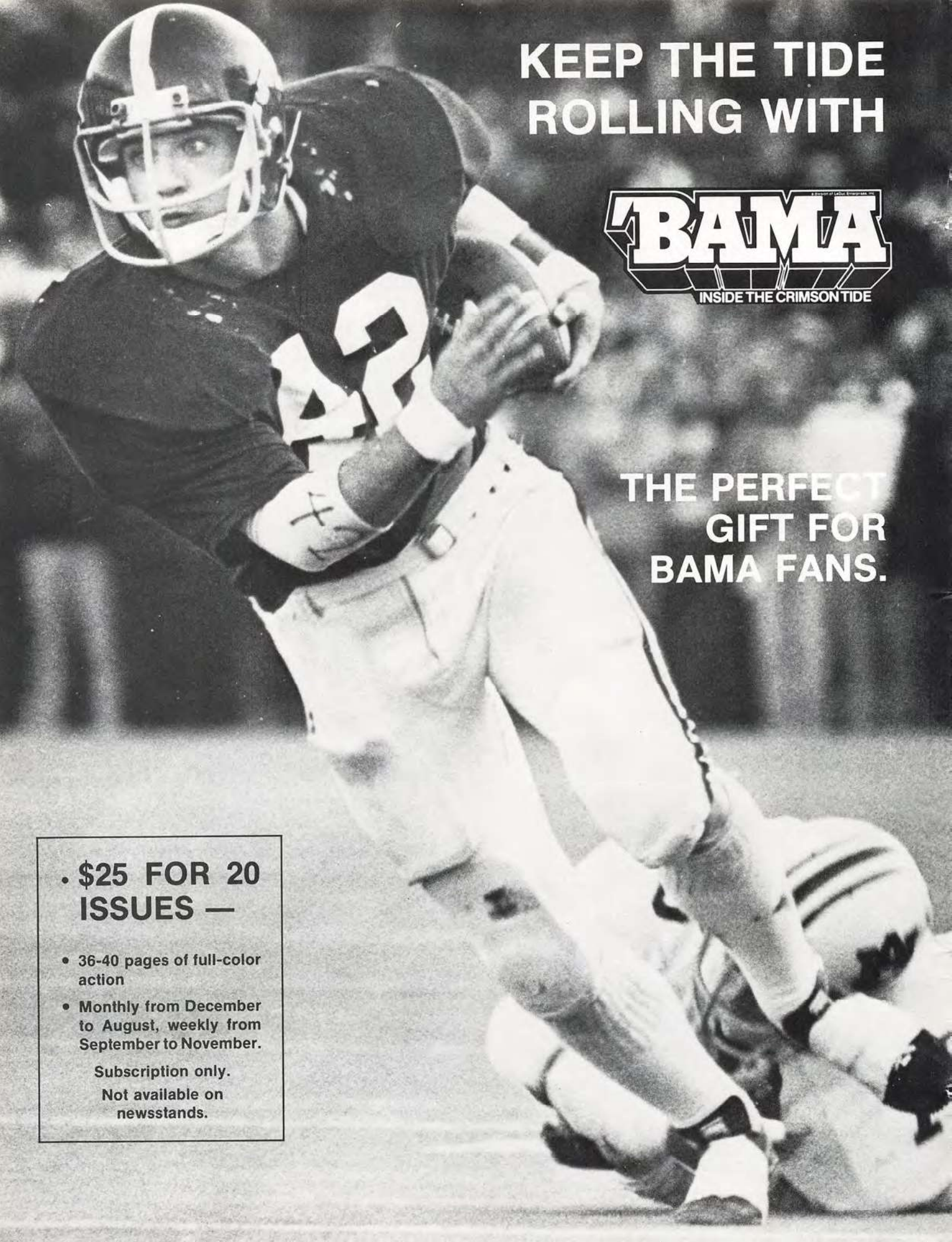
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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On the cover: Alabama's senior defensive tackle-middle guard Curtis McGriff had a reputation as some sort of monster when he was growing up in south Alabama. Now he has a reputation as a top member of one of the nation's finest defensive units.
—Spectrum-Southeast Photo

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The Race For Number One Is Two-Thirds Run

by Kirk McNair

Alabama has reached the two-thirds mark of its season, assuming the Tide is bound for a 21st straight bowl game, and Bama is right where it ended last year's run, at the head of the college football list.

Last week people were amused when Mississippi State coach Emory Bellard said "We're close to a national championship. About 90 miles away." As his team prepared for its 90-mile bus trip back to Starkville after having been dropped by Bama at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa Saturday, Bellard was singing a different tune than many Alabama fans. "They deserve to be number one," said Bellard. "They have a fine outfit."

In all honesty, Alabama may not be the team now that it was at the one-third mark of the season. Or at least it may not have been Saturday. Major Ogilvie is missed in the offensive backfield, and so are backup men Mark Nix and Joe Jones. Keith Pugh is certainly missed at split end. But the 24-7 decision over Mississippi State Saturday was more than respectable, and an 8-0 record is as good as it can be.

Coach Bryant looked at the score with disappointment until he heard some reports of other games around the nation. A lot of top teams would enjoy a two-and-a-half touchdown lead in the fourth quarter. After the first half of Saturday's game it should have been a pleasure for Bama. The fact that coach Bryant commented on that indicates that he is taking a more public stance on the polls this year, not waiting until after the bowl game to politic for the Crimson Tide.

Sugar Bowl scouts were disappointed at halftime, partly by the play of Alabama but also by reports from Athens, where Georgia was in the process of losing its fourth non-conference game of the year. There was no report of whether the Sugar Bowl men in Athens jumped from the trestle that overlooks the stadium. Coach Bryant said Saturday following the game that he hasn't given any thought to the bowls. It would have been shocking if he had said anything else.

However, someone in the Bama camp must be working on the outside contingency that would leave the Tide out of the bowl picture. That set of circumstances would involve Georgia winning one of its two remaining conference games (against Florida and Auburn) and Alabama defeating LSU, then losing to Auburn. Alabama and Georgia would then be tied for the championship with one loss a week after bowl bids have been issued. With five losses, and a possible sixth to come against Georgia Tech after bowl bids, Georgia will not have an invitation. All bowls would have gambled on Alabama beating Auburn and going to the Sugar Bowl and there would be no room in the inn for the Tide. Last year the same situation was alleviated because Georgia had a respectable record and a bid to the Bluebonnet Bowl. Had Bama lost to Auburn, the Tide would have taken the Houston trip while Georgia went to New Orleans.

Almost everyone at Alabama agrees that the best thing that can happen for the Tide is for Bama to win the SEC championship outright and go to the Sugar Bowl, picking the highest possible team for an opponent. If Georgia defeats Florida and Auburn, and Bama gets by LSU, the Tide has the problem of which bowl to pick — Cotton or Orange. If the Tide picks Cotton and Nebraska defeats Oklahoma (after

Left, freshman linebacker Robbie Jones makes the stop on Mississippi State running back Fred Collins as freshman defensive end Mike Pitts moves up to help. Right, Steadman Shealy is in the open as he picks up part of the 190 yards rushing he gained against State Saturday.

—Joel Barnes Photo

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bowl bids are issued), Bama faces the charge of dodging the nation's number two team. If Bama picks Orange and Oklahoma beats Nebraska while Texas goes to the Cotton Bowl, the Tide will be playing against a team that lost to the Cotton Bowl host.

But, as coach Bryant insists, the only thing that Alabama should be concerned with now is LSU. It was not a good last week for football fans at Alabama and LSU, or for ABC. LSU director of athletics Paul Dietzel refused to change the kickoff time of Saturday's game from night to afternoon, making it impossible for ABC to televise the game. Does LSU think that coach Bryant is afraid of the dark? No, but they do feel that the Tigers play better football at night. The LSU indication that many thousands of dollars would have to be refunded if the game was changed to a daytime kickoff can hardly be considered. Not many would want their money back to watch Bama-LSU on TV.

It would be nice if a coin could have been flipped to determine whether the Alabama-LSU game would be a day or night affair. Bama had good luck with its last coin toss, against Mississippi State. The Bulldogs won the toss and elected to take the wind, which was gusting to about 25 miles per hour. That meant that Bama got the choice in the second half, giving the Tide the ball to open the third period and the wind in the fourth quarter. Oddly, Alabama put the game out of reach with a 10-point third quarter, going into the wind.

Just for the record, Bama's Saturday win was:

—The Tide's 17th victory in a row, longest winning streak in the nation.

—The 21st consecutive SEC win, a new league record. The current Alabama streak started by winning the final four league games of 1976, then being 7-0 in 1977, 6-0 in 1978 and now being 4-0 this year. Previously Tennessee and Alabama had 20-game SEC win streaks.

—Bama's 22nd consecutive win over Mississippi State, the longest continuous domination of a regularly-played opponent in the NCAA.

—Alabama's 48th consecutive victory at Bryant-Denny Stadium, a streak of over 16 years of wins.

The game was most notable for matching the wishbone wits of coach

Top, Alabama placekicker Alan McElroy knocks this 41-yard effort into the wind through the uprights to give Alabama an early third quarter 10-7 lead against Mississippi State Saturday. Below, linebacker Thomas Boyd (90) and strong safety Tommy Wilcox put the brakes on State fullback Donald Ray King.
—Spectrum-Southeast Photo

Bellard, the inventor of the offense, and coach Bryant, who has been the most successful innovator of the wishbone. It was interesting to note that both teams stuck pretty much to their basic offensive and defensive plans. State ran almost strictly triple option offense, although the Bulldogs did have a few plays of motion. Alabama also had a few plays of motion and also put one of the halfbacks into a slot a half dozen times.

Mississippi State defended with a four-man front, three linebackers and the strong stafety and the cornerback on the tight end side up close to the line. Alabama worked against State's wishbone with a five-man front, two linebackers and the strong safety and cornerback on the tight end side up close to the line.

Alabama had one other defensive wrinkle. On several occasions when State's fine wide receiver Mardye McDole was split to the left side, Bama's Don McNeal—who normally patrols against the offensive right—flip-flopped to the side with McDole. McDole caught two passes for 36 yards, but dropped what probably would have been a State touchdown of 80 yards midway through the first quarter.

Alabama's offensive trend the past few weeks, obviously not by design, has been slow starting. Perhaps as a result, backup quarterback Don Jacobs has been the man on the scene when Bama first drew blood. That was the case again Saturday. However, when the dust had finally settled, Steadman Shealy was the quarterback of the hour. Steadman rushed 20 times for 190 yards, the most yards that any Bama quarterback has ever run for. Previous best was the late Pat Trammell's 143 against Tulane in 1959.

As most every team that plays the Tide, State was stacked up against the run and almost giving the pass away, but Bama didn't take it. However, the Bulldogs were also giving the quarterbacks running lanes and it wasn't necessary to pass. "They were doing what everyone is trying now," said Jim Bunch. "They were doing a lot of stunting and things instead of lining up and playing football. It's just a matter of time until we get it worked out and attack it, but it makes it awfully difficult for us to block their linebackers sometimes."

Alabama's first offensive line got no relief in the first half, which is unusual. However, when the Tide backup men did get in they were big contributors. Leading 17-7 late in the third quarter Jacobs led the second group on an 89-yard TD march. Billy Jackson, playing at fullspeed for the first time in a month, broke off a 39-yard run to midfield to start the drive and ended it with a fine run after taking a screen pass from Jacobs over the Middle, going 23 yards for the score. An unusual twist to the offensive lineup was having two tight ends—Bart Krout and Larry Brown—in the entire drive. Krout did split out a few yards on some of the formations, including one on which he took a 13-yard pass.

It may be that the most crucial drive of the day involved no scoring. About six minutes into the fourth quarter Jacobs was shaken up on a run, injuring his knee. A few plays later Shealy went 64 yards, but when he was tackled out of bounds he injured his wrist. Bama's other quarterbacks, Alan Gray and Micheal Landrum were not dressed Saturday. Both are injured. That brought on Tommy Wilcox,

Mississippi State strong safety Rob Fesmire has Bama fullback Steve Whitman in his grasp, but the Bulldog defender is paying the price for having tangled with Whitman.
—Spectrum-Southeast Photo

who had been impressive at quarterback last spring. Wilcox stayed just three plays—one of them a motion penalty on his first snap, almost certainly the result of the change in cadence that a new quarterback brings with him. Shealy returned and appears to be okay. Jacobs will miss some work.

Wilcox had been given work at quarterback prior to the Mississippi State game. Every indication is that he will get more this week as the Tide prepares to take on the state university in Wilcox's homestate.

Obviously, if Wilcox is at quarterback the Tide secondary is weakened. The most likely move is Jim Bob Harris to strong safety.

While injuries are bad luck, Bama had its share of good luck against State. McDole's miss of a likely touchdown pass early in the game was certainly fortunate. Alabama's first touchdown was set up when the Bulldogs fumbled at their own 30. On the Tide's first scoring drive of the second half a Shealy pass for Keith Marks was tipped, but ended up right in Marks' hands for a 30-yard gain. Alan McElroy followed a few plays later with a 41-yard field goal, the first he has ever kicked with real pressure. It went into the wind and died just as it carried over the crossbar.

Unquestionably, though, the biggest piece of luck involved the kickoff following McElroy's field goal. Still into the wind, the Tide kick hung up short and the State receiver tried to make a running catch. He didn't get it, Bama's John Mauro did, and four plays later Shealy was following Steve Whitman the last seven yards for a touchdown and Alabama had a little breathing room at 17-7.

That breathing room was needed. Tide collars had to be a little tight when State scored just before the half, one of those psychologically good times in which to get points. The Bulldogs didn't get a first down until five minutes into the second quarter, but then went on a march, finally missing a 35-yard field goal attempt when the snap was high (more good luck?). State got the ball back at midfield with just over two minutes to play, rushed for one first down, passed to McDole for a second, and then got a touchdown on a play which Bama seems to be vulnerable to, a delay pass to the tight end. The Alabama pass rush is so hard and Tide secondary men are frequently in man-to-man coverage, so delay passes, used sparingly, are often effective against Bama.

Then the Tide defense shut the Bulldogs down. State got into Alabama territory for only two plays in the second half, one a punt and one a pass that was intercepted by Ricky Tucker in the final minute of the game. And that wasn't luck. ★

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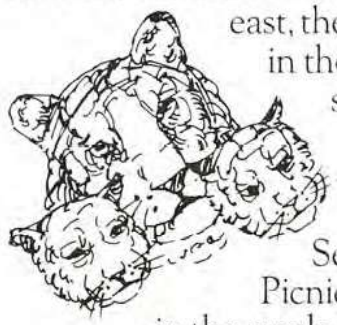

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Jayvees Rout Doughboys

Everybody knows that the fourth quarter belongs to Alabama. The Crimson Tide junior varsity showed that it has the same rights as the varsity last week when the Bama jayvees broke away in the final period to a 34-7 victory over the Fort Benning Doughboys in Columbus, Georgia.

Bama led 10-7 at the end of the third quarter, the Tide scores coming on an Earl Collins' run and a 38-yard field goal by Paul Trodd. Soph Johnny Brooker kicked the entra point after the run by Collins, who finished with 62 yards.

In the fourth quarter the Tide scored on a seven-yard run by quarterback Darryl White, a 32-yard Trodd field goal, a 10-yard run by halfback Stuart Key and an eight-yard run by quarterback Merv Romine.

Bama had 233 yards of rushing offense, but the big statistic was eight intercepted passes against Fort Benning. The Doughboys are quarterbacked by former Army quarterback Leaman Hall, who was an NCAA passing leader while at West Point.

The Tide is halfway through its junior varsity season, sporting a 2-0 record.

This week the jayvees will be at Marion Institute Friday night.

ALABAMA STATISTICS VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE

RUSHING	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Long
Shealy	20	209	19	190	1	64
Jackson	9	61	2	59	0	39
Whitman	9	49	0	49	0	22
Jacobs	7	56	12	44	1	24
Haney	3	18	0	18	0	9
Hill	7	12	0	12	0	3
Wilcox	1	6	0	6	0	6
Fagan	4	9	5	4	0	4
Ferguson	1	2	0	2	0	2
BAMA TOTALS	61	422	38	384	2	64
STATE TOTALS	48	183	10	173	0	20

PASSING	Att-Comp-Int	Yards	TD	Long
Shealy	7- 3 - 1	42	0	30
Jacobs	3- 2 - 0	36	1	23
Umphrey	1- 0 - 1	0	0	0
BAMA TOTALS	11- 5 - 2	78	1	30
STATE TOTALS	11- 4 - 1	59	1	20

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	--	Final
Alabama	0	7	17	0	--	24
Mississippi State	0	7	0	0	--	7

SCORING:

Ala -- Jacobs, 13 rush (McElroy kick)
MSU -- Price, 18 Dw. Brown pass (Da. Brown kick)
Ala -- McElroy, 41 field goal
Ala -- Shealy, 7 rush (McElroy kick)
Ala -- Jackson, 23 Jacobs pass (McElroy kick)

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Marks	2	42	0	30
Jackson	1	23	1	23
Krout	1	13	0	13
Whitman	1	0	0	0

PUNTING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long
Umphrey	5	151	30.2	41
STATE TOTALS	7	290	41.4	53

ALL RETURNS	Punts No.	Yds.	Kickoffs No.	Yds.	Int'c'ns No.	Yds.
Wilcox	4	24				
Clements			2	35		
McNeal			1	13		
Tucker					1	17
BAMA TOTALS	4	24	3	48	1	17
STATE TOTALS	0	0	4	71	2	32

TEAM STATISTICS	BAMA	STATE
First Downs	20	13
Rushing	16	10
Passing	4	3
Penalty	0	0
Total Offensive Plays	72	59
Total Net Yards	462	232
Average Gain Per Play	6.42	3.93
Fumbles-Lost	4-0	3-2
Penalties-Yards	4-37	2-10
Time Of Possession	32:51	27:09
Third Down Conversions	6-15	7-15

TACKLE LEADERS	Solo	Assist	Total
Hamilton	4	6	10
R. Jones	6	2	8
Scott	6	1	7
Boyd	4	3	7
Tucker	3	2	5
Junior	3	2	5
Wilcox	2	3	5

COACH BRYANT ON BAMA

"I think that our team showed a lot of class and determination coming back in the second half like it did to win. We looked like a machine there for a while there in the third quarter.

"We don't have a lot of meanness. However, I think we were just about to take off when all the injuries hit. We've gone backwards since we got all the injuries.

"We're not going to go back and go crazy, but we're going to work on fundamentals and get back trying to play together. We need to get a group together and get it polished.

"We're just having to go day-by-day on our injury situation, particularly regarding Major Ogilvie. We got some more hurt Saturday, including Don Jacobs and Jim Bob Harris. We didn't play Major, of course, or Bobby Smith or Mark Nix.

"Mississippi State wanted our quarterbacks to keep the football. I don't mind that when Steadman (Shealy) or Don (Jacobs) is in there. But they were flattening us out. When that happens you have to throw the football. I was amazed at Tommy Wilcox. We gave him some work at quarterback last week and he picked up right where he left off in the spring. One thing about him, he doesn't run east and west—he's going north and south, towards the goalline. In the spring we'll give him and Jim Bob Harris a chance at quarterback if they want it. Depending on our injury situation, Wilcox may be working there sooner than that.

"I'm not going to get involved in the LSU television policy. That's their problem and I've got enough of my own. If they want to play us at ten o'clock we'll be there.

"Charley Mac is getting out after this year. He's the winningest coach that's ever been there and I think he's been mistreated a little. I'm sure they'll be fired up and slobbering at the mouth. I hope we can beat him and then they win the rest of them.

"Playing in Tiger Stadium at night is difficult because it's so difficult you can't communicate."

ALABAMA DEPTH CHART VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE

Alabama used 54 of the 60 men who dressed against Mississippi State with 14 of those 54 freshmen, including six true freshmen. Bama used 24 on offense, 23 on defense and seven on specialty teams. Some played more than one spot, but this chart lists each man only once, at the position he first played. Starters are listed first.

OFFENSE

Split End: Keith Marks, Tim Clark
Left Tackle: Buddy Aydelette, Eddie McCombs, Vince Cowell
Left Guard: Mike Brock, Scott Allison
Center: Dwight Stephenson, Steve Mott
Right Guard: Vince Boothe, Gary Bramblett
Right Tackle: Jim Bunch, Wiley Barnes
Tight End: Tim Travis, Bart Krout, Larry Brown
Quarterback: Steadman Shealy, Don Jacobs
Left Halfback: Billy Jackson, Mitch Ferguson
Right Halfback: James Haney, Jeff Fagan
Fullback: Steve Whitman, John Hill

DEFENSE

Left End: Wayne Hamilton, Gary DeNiro, Mike Pitts
Left Tackle: Byron Braggs, Jackie Cline
Middle Guard: Warren Lyles, Curtis McGriff
Right Tackle: David Hannah, Scott Homan
Right End: E. J. Junior, John Mauro
Strongside Linebacker: Randy Scott, Ricky Rozzell, Russ Wood
Weakside Linebacker: Thomas Boyd, Robbie Jones
Left Halfback: Don McNeal, Jeremiah Castille
Right Halfback: Mike Clements, Benny Perrin
Strong Safety: Tommy Wilcox
Safety: Ricky Tucker, Jim Bob Harris

SPECIALTY TEAMS

Punter: Woody Umphrey
Placekicker: Alan McElroy
Snapper: Barry Smith

Returns and Coverage: Buddy Holt, Joe Robbins, Ken Simon, Ben Orcutt

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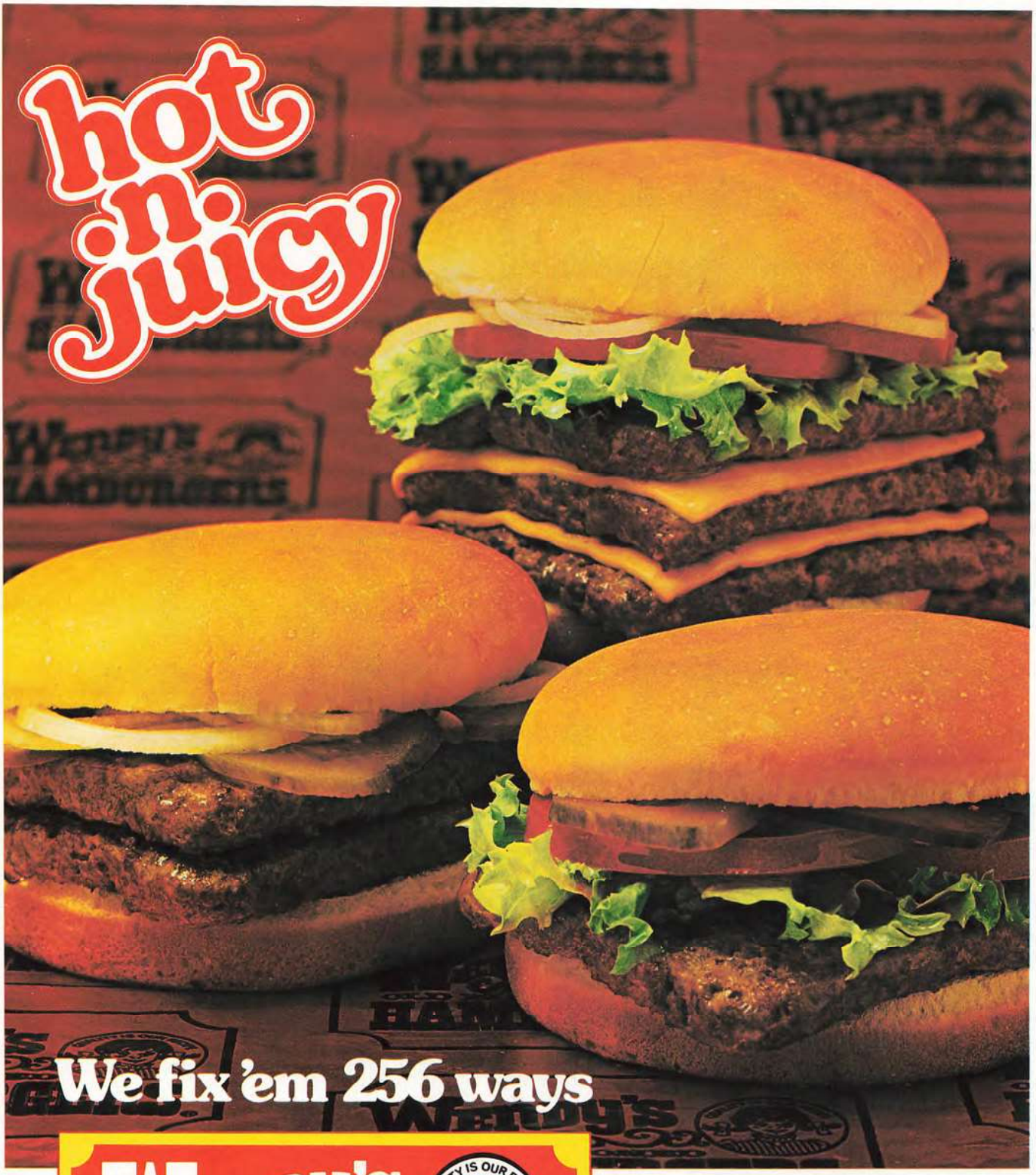
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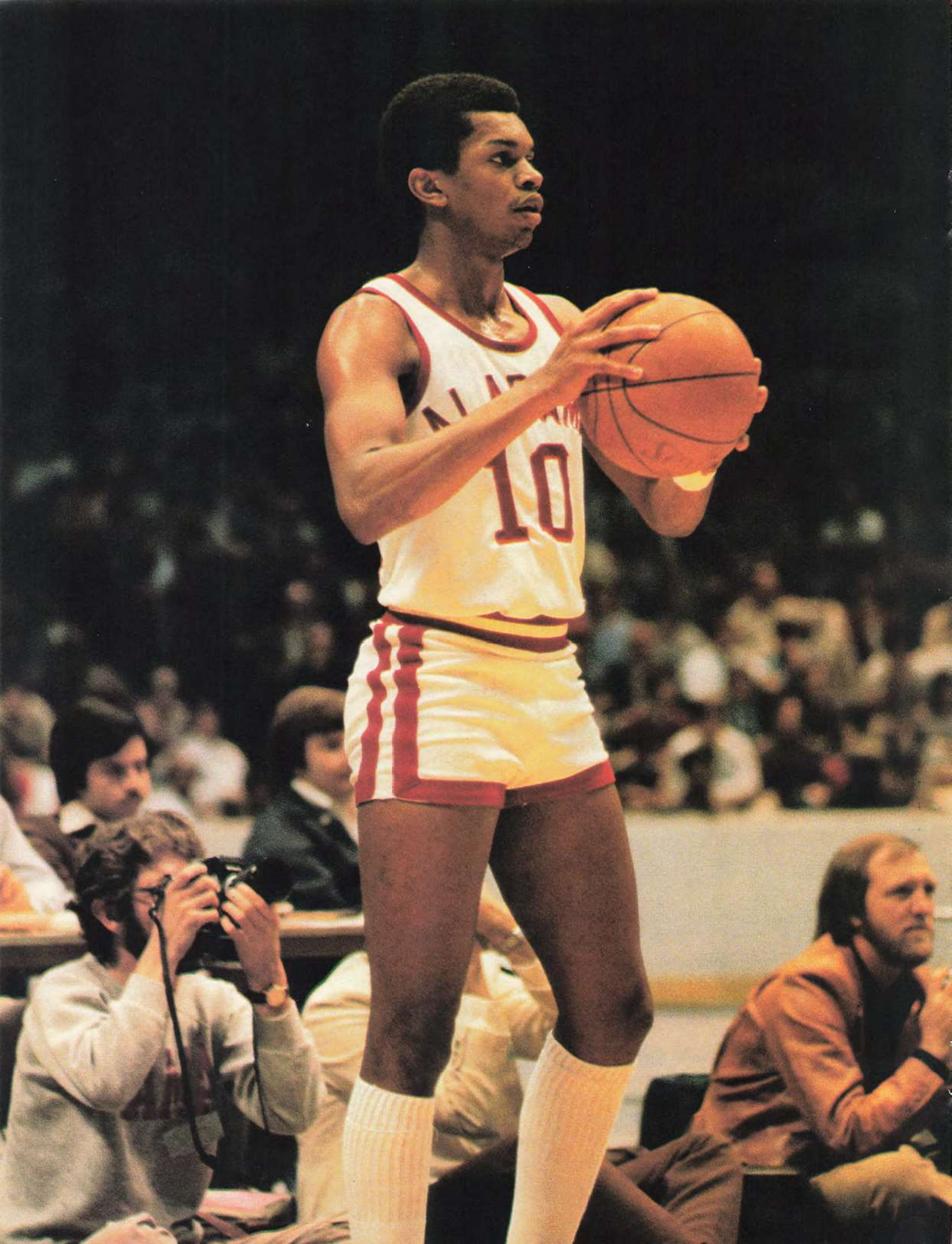

10

Picking It Up On Defense

by Kirk McNair

Alabama head basketball coach C. M. Newton knows as well as anyone that his Crimson Tide team lost 22 points and 12 rebounds from its 1979 team when Reggie King graduated to the Kansas City Kings. And he's doing something about it.

"I don't think we can pick that up offensively," says coach Newton. "Last year we were a weak defensive team. Not sorry, but not real sound. We outscored a lot of people to win twenty-two basketball games. We stopped a few people, had a few good defensive games, but not many. This club is going to have to make up that margin on the defensive end."

As a result of that philosophy, Alabama's basketball players have not had much work on offense with a season-opening game just a few weeks away. The Tide hosts Maine in the Birmingham-Jefferson County Civic Center Coliseum at 8 p.m. Friday, November 30—the night before Bama's football team takes on Auburn in Legion Field in the regular season finale.

"Our staff, and our players for that matter, knew something about this team after we had played seven games in Japan this summer," says coach Newton. "We knew that we were going to be able to run and we knew that we were going to be able to shoot. And we played most of the time without Reggie in Japan so that we would be able to find out these things. We also found out that we're probably not going to be powerful on the boards, but we should be an adequate rebounding team and could be a good one."

Alabama's players didn't go into fall workouts blind. "We told them that we were going to work primarily on defense and would mean a great deal of work on conditioning," says coach Newton. "They have accepted that. In the early going I think that we about broke them down because of all the conditioning work we gave them, but I feel sure that it has paid off. You can't play defense tired."

The players also knew that personnel decisions would be based on defense. "And that leaves us in something of a posture of indecision regarding the offense," explains coach Newton, "because we can't really tell much about our offensive plan until we know for sure who will be playing." Nevertheless, Alabama can be expected to continue to operate with a fast break offense, trying to work the ball to the inside players after the offense is set up. "But we don't know which inside people we'll be trying to work it to," adds coach Newton.

"One of the things that has got to be proved is whether the guys who played last year can play on the defensive end as they are going to have to this year," says the coach. "I think that in our early work most of them have showed us that they are improved in that area. I think that Ken Johnson, particularly, fits into that category."

Although the Tide enjoyed success last year, winning at least 22 games for the sixth year in the past seven and finishing third in the NIT, and despite the fact that the best player in Alabama history—Reggie King—is gone, there is reason to believe that this year's Bama team can be better than last year's. "Last year was almost scary," remembers coach Newton. "We had only three men with any appreciable playing time returning and we had six new men—freshmen and Joe Hancock from junior college—to work into our system. I think that's probably a prime reason that last season we were not the kind of team defensively that we had been in the past.

"It's a lot easier to work on some things in the situation that we have now with four men who started most of last year and two or three others who got tested pretty good," adds coach Newton.

It's not a sure thing, but it's usual for returning starters to keep their jobs, particularly in the early going. That means that one might look for seniors Robert Scott and Joe Hancock to be opening at the guards, junior Ken Johnson at weak forward and sophomore Eddie Phillips at strong forward. The question mark, then, is the same as it has been since Leon Douglas completed his eligibility four years ago. Who will be the post man?

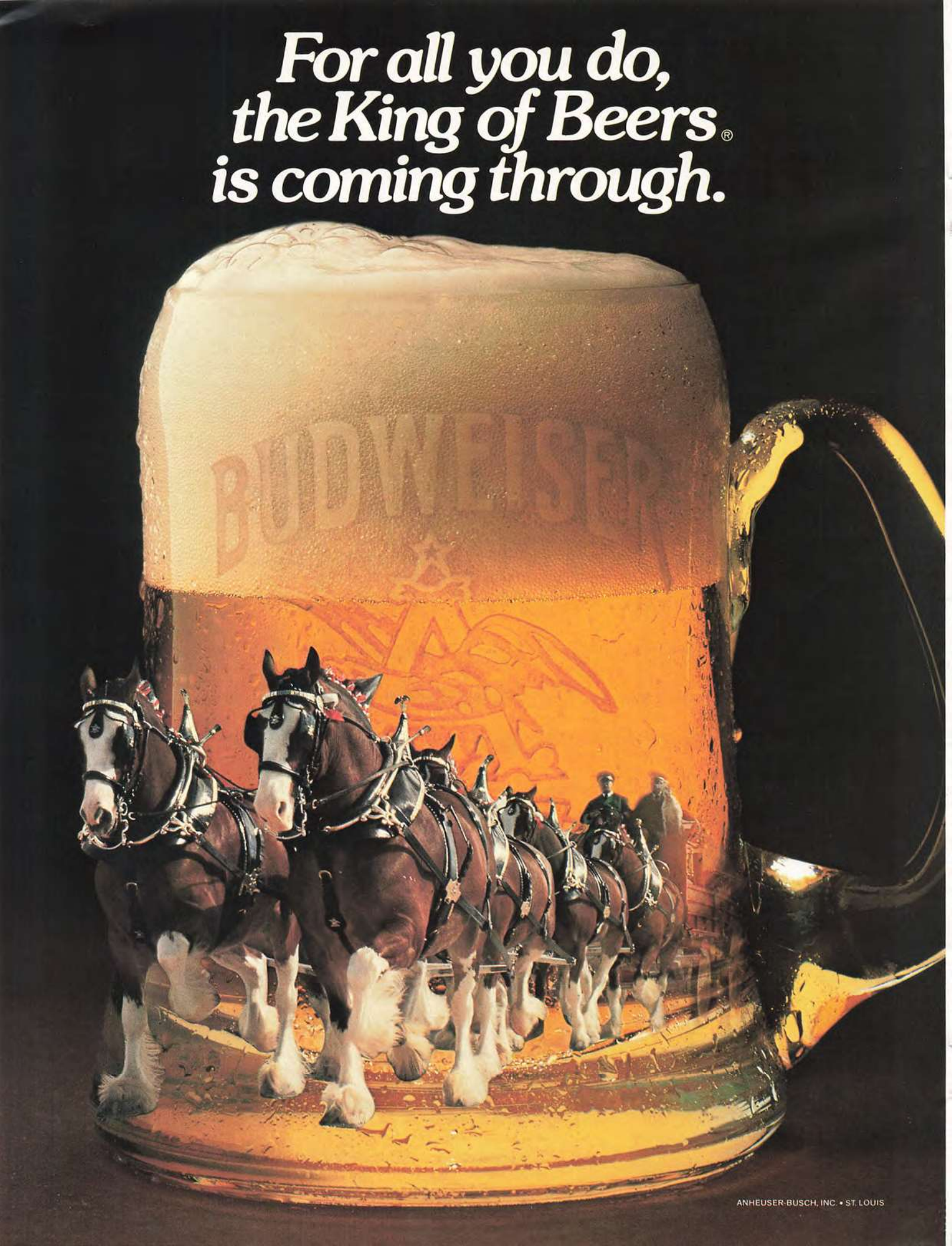
"Unquestionably that is the key," says coach Newton. "I feel that we could play Eddie Phillips at the post and be all right, because he played there on occasion last year, along with Reggie. But we will be much better off if we can fill that void and leave Eddie at the strong forward."

Three men have received the primary work at center "and at least two of them are going to have to play if we are going to be the type basketball team that we want to be," points out coach Newton. The three are Phillip Lockett, who was a top inside sub last year as a freshman; Chris Bragwell, a junior who was redshirted last year for disciplinary reasons, but who needed the year off at any rate to allow a knee injury to mend; and injury-plagued junior Maurice Myers.

Defense and rebounding are the skills that it will take to win the post job. "It's a real question as to whether we can go on the boards with the teams in the Southeastern Conference," says coach Newton. "The only one who has proved that he can is Eddie Phillips, and he wasn't consistent last year."

In addition to the four returning starters and whoever wins the center's job, it can be assumed that soph guard Eddie Adams will be seeing playing time. Adams, who has indicated that he can be an outstanding outside shooter, played well in Japan and in the early fall work. However, there's another guard on the horizon, freshman Mike Davis, who was the outstanding high school player in Alabama last year among the senior group. The only other Tider with appreciable experience is soph forward Carl Mitchell.

Senior guard Robert Scott of Birmingham is expected to be the playmaker for the Crimson Tide basketball team this year, but he showed late last season that he can also put the ball in the basket.
—Joel Barnes Photo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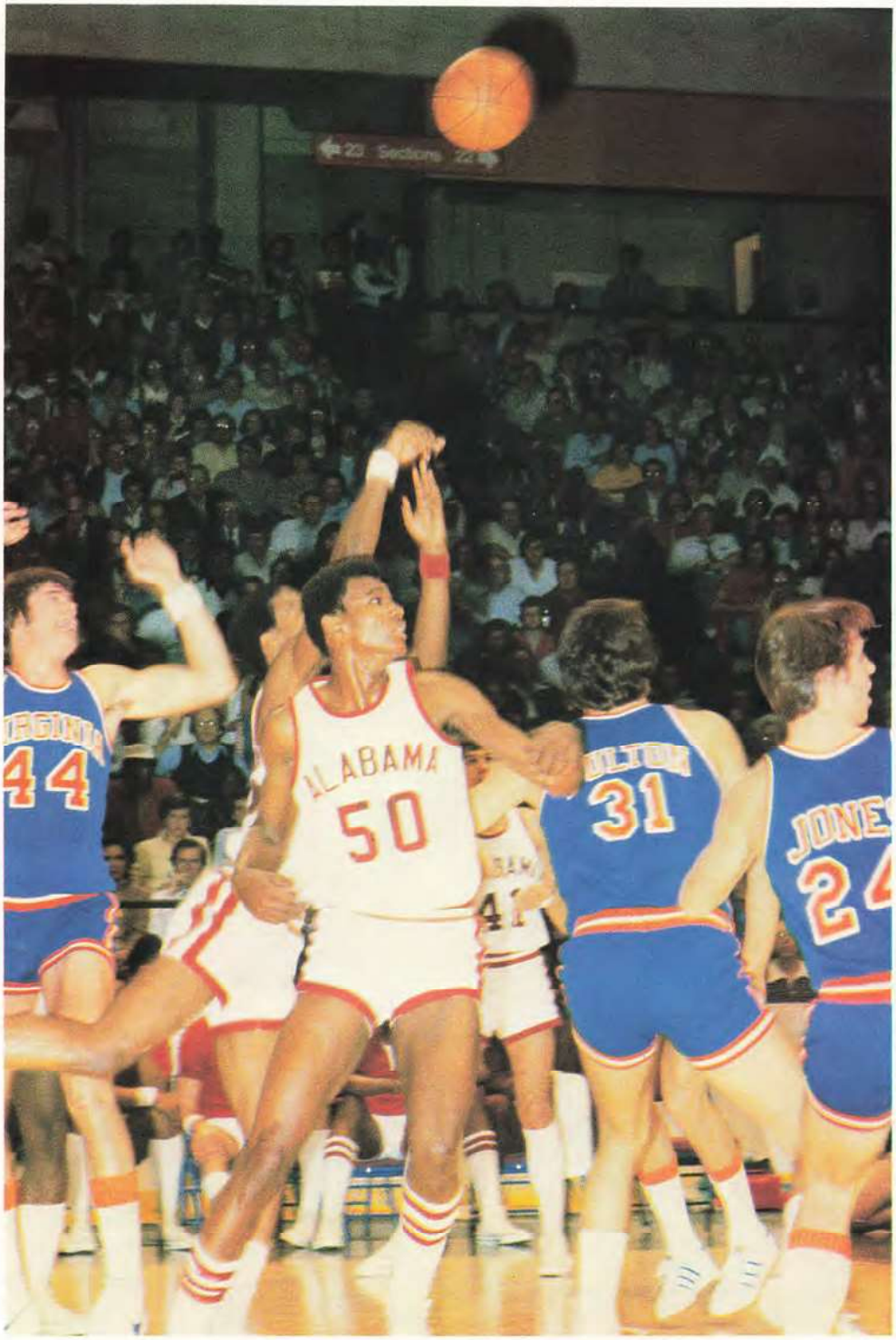
Alabama basketball recruiting years are generally overlooked by the national publications that rate signees, but year in and year out the men who pick Alabama become part of a winning program. In addition to Davis, the new members of the Bama basketball team are 6-5 forward Eugene Jones, 6-0 guard Joe Morris, 6-2 guard Vance Wheeler and 6-6 forward Cliff Windham. Another guard on the team is Reggie Strickland, who will be trying to come back from knee surgery following an injury early last season.

It's been Alabama's history under coach Newton to play a difficult December schedule with a great deal of experimentation. The Tide won't have that luxury this year. Because of the Southeastern Conference Tournament (February 28 through March 3 in Birmingham), the conference has moved the beginning of league play into December, each team playing twice in December against SEC opponents. Bama plays two of the toughest in December, Vanderbilt in Tuscaloosa on the 15th and Tennessee in Knoxville on the 19th.

Pre-season polls almost unanimously pick LSU to repeat as SEC champion, with Tennessee (last year's tournament champion) and Kentucky (which had a super recruiting year) right behind the Bengal Tigers. Alabama, Vanderbilt, Auburn and Mississippi State are generally put at the next level, Georgia, Ole Miss and Florida in the next group.

Three SEC teams lost two starters from last year, six lost only one and Auburn returns its entire starting five.★



A key to the success of Bama's 1979-80 basketball season is the play of the post man. Soph Phillip Lockett (50) is a leading contender to take over the job of center.
—Joel Barnes Photo

Escort

CRIMSON GALLERY →

As a rule, Alabama doesn't get much game work on kickoff returns, but the Crimson Tide takes a great deal of pride in the overall kicking game being a strong point.

Bama uses two fullbacks on its kickoff returns, the so-called "short return men" in front of the deep backs. They are primarily blockers for the deep return men, but when a kickoff is short they are charged with returning the kick, as John Hill does here.

Buddy Holt (1) is a valuable member of all kicking teams. On the kickoff return team he is a member of the safety line, just behind the front five and ahead of the short return men. Once the kickoff is beyond him he's dropping back to serve as an escort blocker for the man with the football. Buddy is on the lookout for a potential tackler so that he can take him out and give John that extra yardage.

—Spectrum-Southeast Photo

CURTIS McGRIFF:

No Longer A Monster

by Mike Bolton

Every childhood is full of fear of such supernatural beings as ghosts, goblins, gargoyles or even a shifty old recluse who supposedly lives somewhere in a swamp.

The childhood of Steadman Shealy was no different.

"I remember growing up in Dothan surrounded by the rumor that there was this big kid that lived far out in the woods," Shealy recalls now with a laugh. "He was supposed to be as big as a monster and he was mean and people said they had actually seen him. He was known as 'Big Griff.'

"He was supposed to be living about 10 miles from Dothan in the woods near what is called Gordon. Everybody was afraid of him.

"I remember hearing in high school that Cottonwood High School had somehow gotten him and turned him into some kind of football player. He was supposed to be the biggest, fastest, meanest thing around. Everybody was talking about him and everybody wanted to see him play.

"I played at a 4A school and everybody said we should be thankful that we were 4A because Cottonwood was 2A and we didn't play them."

Shealy remembers finally seeing the "Monster."

"It was at this thing called 'Wiregrass' where all the top football players from the area met. I nearly fainted when I saw him. He was the biggest person I had ever seen in my life."

The monster turned out to be Curtis McGriff, who at 6-5, 264 pounds, is a lot closer to being Gentle Ben than Godzilla.

"The only thing we heard about him that isn't true now is that he's the fastest thing in the world," Shealy adds.

Although Shealy lost his fear of "Big Griff" long ago, it has been picked up by Alabama opponents over the past four years. Curtis McGriff has scared the wits out of his share of offensive lineman.

"He doesn't scare anybody that knows him," four-year roommate Don McNeal says. "Off the field he is the kindest, most gentle person you will ever care to meet. He will do anything for you that you want done."

You have to understand the life of Curtis McGriff to completely appreciate that massive hunk of human being.

"Our farm is about 13 miles below Dothan," McGriff explains. "We're about five miles from Florida and eight miles from Georgia. About 300 people live in Gordon. You know what kind of town I'm talking about.

"I grew up on about 40 acres of farmland where we grew peanuts, peas, corn, that kind of stuff. it's not much of a farm, just a big place in the country."

McGriff was one of six children born to a set of God-fearing parents. Weekdays found the McGriffs in the fields, Sundays found them in church.

"I never got a chance to play Little League ball because that was always through YMCA or something," McGriff said. "I had to work on the farm until I could finally play football in the seventh grade. I can remember Mom getting upset because I wanted to play football and basketball.

"She said they needed me at the farm, but I wanted to play football. Mom didn't think it was good that I was away from home that much and that late. My family has always been religious and we always lived in walking distance of the church. The idea of football just didn't set right with Momma."

Waymond McGriff understood his son's longing for sports and it finally got through to his wife that it was going to be that way.

"She finally agreed after seeing I wanted to play so bad," says Curtis. "It worked out all right, I guess. I'd get home before dark and I'd feed the cattle and the hogs. I tried to do my part."

While the legend of "Big Griff" was engulfing Dothan, word of the "Monster" was also getting back to places like Tuscaloosa, Auburn, Athens, Georgia, Gainesville, and Tallahassee, Florida. Coaches in those cities knew of the big fellow by his junior year.

"I had a pretty good year my junior year and I knew some colleges were interested in me, but it wasn't until my senior year that I thought I had a chance of doing anything," McGriff recalls. "I went to six different schools looking my senior year mainly because I hadn't ever been anywhere much before.

"I went to Oklahoma State, Alabama, Florida, Auburn, Georgia and Florida State.

"Wayne Hall was the one from

Alabama that recruited me and I liked him a lot. I had a sister at Alabama at the time and she wanted me to come here. She'd call and say 'You have to come here. These folks are crazy about football. The girls here sure like football players.' She sorta talked me into it."

While McGriff's sister helped sell him on Alabama, his mom wasn't sold that easily.

"My parents came up here when I was recruited and they met Reverend (Sylvester) Croom. He had two sons to play here. He told them what Alabama had meant to him as well as them and what kind of man coach Bryant was. You could tell she was impressed. Dad said for me to do what I wanted to do, but Mom said to go to Alabama."

Alabama it was. He says now he came to Tuscaloosa because of coach Bryant, the winning tradition and a chance of playing for a national champion. Others that recruited him, he said, had talked of possibly winning a conference championship with his help.

"It wasn't easy," McGriff said of his first year, "but I didn't expect it to be and I was told it wouldn't be. Quitting? Sure, I thought about it—everybody does. But those that do quit have a little more to go back home to than I did."

"He's a fine person," McGriff's defensive teacher Ken Donahue says of his pupil. "He's fine in every way. He grew up in the country and he's worked hard all of his life. He doesn't mind working hard here, either.

"He's from a fine Christian background and his family are fine folk. It shows in him, too. He's likable and easy to work with. He's just a good person."

Donahue recalls the Southern Cal game of 1977 as McGriff's best and says he's sorry "injuries have kept him from being the player he could be."

McGriff injured his back this season against Georgia Tech and has seen limited action in the first few games, but Donahue expects him to be back full speed soon.

McGriff's feeling for Donahue is a close one, also.

"He's a good coach," McGriff says. "He's a man that likes to work you a lot, but he works so hard himself it's hard not to go with him. He works harder than we do, probably. It's hard not to give your best when he's around."

When most people describe McGriff, the word they use is "big." After that, the ones that know him best think of him as shy.

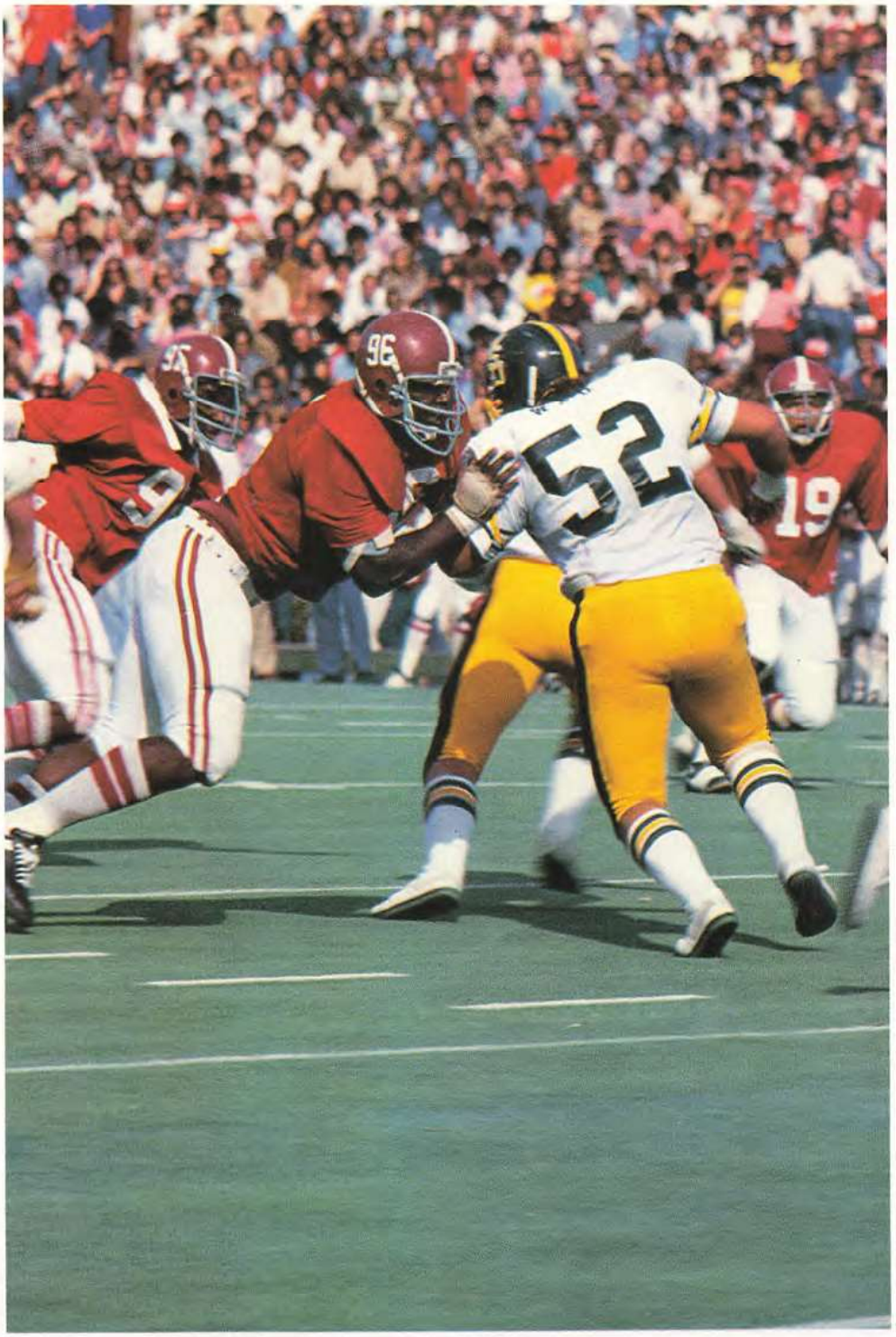
"I don't think I'm shy. I'm just not loud and I don't talk a lot," McGriff says. "I'm the type of person just always looking for something else. I want to experience a lot of things. I want to find what I am intended to do in life.

"I want to look for those things now why I have the chance. Eventually, I want to get back to what I know is right. The farm is right for me, but not now. I want to farm in the same area as I'm from. I want a farm with cattle, a fishing pond, those kinds of things. I think that's what I'm intended to do, but I want to make sure. I really miss the farm life a lot."

Some of his teammates can't see that. Others can.

"I went home with him one weekend and it was unbelievable," defensive end Wayne Hamilton says. "We had to get up one morning and chase down these pigs and then chase down the other pigs and swap them or something. I don't know what we were doing.

"McGriff was unbelievable. I know he can catch a back easy if he can catch a pig like he did that day."



Alabama's Curtis McGriff fends off the blocker and moves to the play. Curtis, a senior, plays both defensive tackle and middle guard for the Crimson Tide.
—Joel Barnes Photo

Other than his family, no one knows McGriff better than McNeal, his four-year roommate.

"We call him 'Big Money' because he walks like he's got some money or something instead of being a country boy like me," McNeal says. "He looks like a New York hotshot with that shuffle of his.

"We were put together our freshman year just by chance and it's worked out great. He's a fine fellow. People say he's shy, but I've never noticed. He's not shy around me. We sat down one night after we were put together and we told each other about ourselves and we found out we were a lot like.

"We are both kids that grew up on farms under what might be called not the easiest circumstances and we both strive for the same kind of things. We both know what we have here and we both know what we would be doing if it wasn't for this place. It sort of humbles you when you think about it.

"Curtis is proud of being an Alabama football player, but he wouldn't ever take advantage of it. He's not that kind of person. He handles himself like a gentleman at all times. He's really just mature I guess you could say."

Donahue says McGriff has pro size and strength and Alabama opponents would surely agree. McGriff would like pro football to be one of the items on his list of things to check out before settling down to farm life.

"I'd love nothing more than to give pro football a chance," McGriff says. "I'd settle for a chance just to walk on somewhere. It's just something I have always wanted to try. I really hope I get the chance.

"I haven't thought about it much around here lately, though. It's been pretty hectic lately since we've been named number one. I think we're practicing a little harder and are staying in meetngs a little more. Maybe we haven't, but it seems like it.

"You can tell there is a little more pressure around here. There are a lot of seniors that would like to go out with another national championship. That's the reason we came here, you know."

McGriff knows another championship would make him even more famous in Gordon, Alabama than he is now. When he returns there now, it's like a movie star returning home.

"I guess most see me as something special even though I'm not," McGriff says. "They always ask a lot of questions and they want to shake your hand. Most of them can't believe I've actually talked to coach Bryant before."

Home is where the heart is, and McGriff heads back to Gordon every chance he gets. While teammates spend the summers in air conditioned offices with good pay, McGriff heads back to the farm life for free.

"I've got a lot of brothers and sisters and Mom puts up and cans a lot of stuff for them and I help her do that in the summer," McGriff says. "It's what I enjoy doing. I like to get back down there and help and see everyone. I have a lot of relatives to go see every summer and it is really just a good time.

"I'm afraid that's just what I'm cut out to do. Sometimes I sit around there and think about playing in front of all those people in the Sugar Bowl and on TV it's hard to believe that person and the one sitting there is the same one. I don't know, it's just wierd sometimes." ★

Curtis McGriff is where Bama coaches want him, in the opponent's backfield bearing down on a running back. Curtis is considered by his coaches to have pro size and, therefore, a chance at further football.
—Spectrum-Southeast Photo

FUTURE TIDE SCHEDULES

THE 1980 SEASON
Sept. 13—Georgia Tech, home
Sept. 20—Mississippi, away
Sept. 27—Vanderbilt, home
Oct. 4—Kentucky, home
Oct. 11—Rutgers, away
Oct. 18—Tennessee, away
Oct. 25—Southern Miss, home
Nov. 1—Mississippi State, away
Nov. 8—Louisiana State, home
Nov. 15—Notre Dame, home
Nov. 29—Auburn, Birmingham

THE 1981 SEASON
Sept. 12—Georgia Tech, home
Sept. 19—Kentucky, away
Sept. 26—Vanderbilt, away
Oct. 3—Mississippi, home
Oct. 10—Southern Miss, home
Oct. 17—Tennessee, home
Oct. 24—Rutgers, home
Oct. 31—Mississippi State, home
Nov. 7—Louisiana State, away
Nov. 14—Penn State, away
Nov. 28—Auburn, Birmingham

THE 1982 SEASON
Sept. 11—Georgia Tech, away
Sept. 18—Mississippi, away
Sept. 25—Vanderbilt, home
Oct. 2—Southern Miss, home
Oct. 9—Penn State, home
Oct. 16—Tennessee, away
Oct. 23—Cincinnati, home
Oct. 30—Mississippi State, away
Nov. 6—Louisiana State, home
Nov. 20—Rutgers, away
Nov. 27—Auburn, Birmingham

THE 1983 SEASON
Sept. 10—Georgia Tech, away
Sept. 17—Mississippi, home
Sept. 24—Vanderbilt, away
Oct. 1—Pending
Oct. 8—Penn State, away
Oct. 15—Tennessee, home
Oct. 22—Boston College, home
Oct. 29—Mississippi State, home
Nov. 5—Louisiana State, away
Nov. 12—Southern Miss, home
Nov. 26—Auburn, Birmingham

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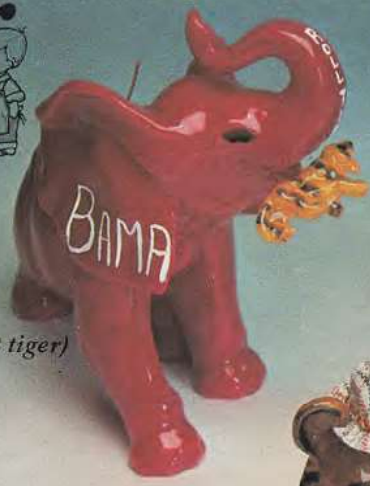

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SCOUTING REPORT

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

by Kirk McNair

Play word association with "LSU" and it's amazing the thoughts that come to mind. One might think of Charles Alexander being gone. Or of Charley Mac being almost gone. Or of Tiger Stadium being bigger and noiser. Or of all that depth the Bengal Tigers usually have, about half of which in unpronounceable. Or the Tiger.

Or maybe Southern Cal.

Alabama players, coaches and fans were aware of the events of September 29. LSU had Southern Cal all but beaten before falling 17-12 in the final seconds. The number one team had gone into Tiger Stadium and, to the surprise of no one, had not found LSU shy.

LSU head coach Charles McClendon is in his 18th and final season as head coach of the Bengal Tigers. It will be a long time, if ever, before anyone matches his winning record at LSU. Unquestionably his team would be pleased to be able to give him a going away gift of a victory over the team that has been his number one nemesis, Alabama.

When the Tigers graduated Charles Alexander to the Bengals he could have been playing for the past four years—the Cincinnati Bengals of the NFL—as well as most of the offensive line that blocked for him, there was reason to suspect that perhaps the LSU of 1979 would not be as formidable as the Tigers were a year ago. Events have proved otherwise.

LSU will certainly have the advantage of the home field. Few teams enjoy a more pronounced one. Tiger Stadium was expanded prior to last season (and since Bama's last trip to Baton Rouge) to hold over 8,000 more crazies, a total now of 76,092, few of which are friendly to the Tide. And, once again, they forgot to sound proof it.

The Tigers will certainly be no stranger to competition when they host Bama Saturday. In addition to Southern Cal, LSU

Splitback Jerry Murphree of Birmingham is adept as both a runner and pass receiver for the LSU Tigers.

has played Georgia, Kentucky, Florida State and, last week, arch rival Ole Miss.

Coach Bryant claims that he now gets along well with LSU's mascot, Mike IV, but Tide players can be expected to have their share of problems with Tigers on the field. Taking a look at LSU's personnel:

Coach Bryant goes against one of his favorite former players and assistant coaches when Bama meets LSU. Charley mcClendon, in addition to being an outstanding football coach, is a class gentleman.

OFFENSE

The LSU offense is like a magic trick. It's really fairly simple, but it's disguised so well as to be very complicated. Annually the imagintive LSU offense presents terrific problems for the Alabama defense. It's basically a slot-I offense.

Quarterback: Charley Mac has been with the two-man quarterback system for years and once again he has two outstanding signal callers. He'll go with the one who has the hot hand most of the time, but substitutes without worry. Steve Ensminger has moved to the front currently in the LSU offense, but David Woodley is never far behind. Both are experienced seniors. Woodley had a fine game against Bama last year, hitting seven of 13 passes for 139 yards and one touchdown and rushing eight times for 38 yards.

Tailback: Charles Alexander is gone, of course, but the Tigers have had effective play from their deep backs this year, which is no surprise. Hokie Gajan, a junior, and LeRoid Jones, a senior, are both around 210 pounds and very fast. Gajan, not Alexander, was LSU's leading rusher against Alabama last year, picking up 72 yards on 15 carries. LSU doesn't rely on the tailbacks as much as was the case with Alexander back there and as a result the defenses don't key on the position as in the past. The offshoot of that has been that Gajan and Jones have been able to spring some big plays.

Fullback: The fullback in the LSU offense is called on more for blocking than running, but the two doing most of the work at that position for the Tigers have also run well, averaging a little over five yards per carry between them. Both are in the 215-pound range and will pass a lick. Junior Danny Soileau is currently running just ahead of soph Jude Hernandez, but both have started this year.

Splitback: The splitback in the LSU offense can be either a runner or a pass receiver and that position is filled well by Jerry Murphree of Birmingham. He's a 6-0, 188-pound senior. He's backed by junior Tracy Porter, who is the second-leading receiver for the Tigers.

Split End: Danger is the word when Carlos Carson is split wide. The 5-10 senior has a handful of LSU pass receiving records and didn't hurt his record against Alabama last year when he pulled in five for 125 yards, including the first touchdown of the game. He's backed by another three-year letterman, Lionel Wallis, who at 6-3 is a somewhat better target than Carson.

Tight End: A couple of big juniors split playing time at tight end, Robert DeLee (6-3, 236) starting and Greg LaFleur (6-4, 231) backing him up. Neither is often the target of a pass, but when they are used as receivers it usually means a gain of over 20 yards.

Tackles: LSU did a good job of getting some meat on the line at left tackle. Charles McDuff, the starter, puts a 6-6, 268-pound frame into his football uniform. Behind him is a freshman, probably still growing, 6-4, 262-pound Kerry West. The right tackle has 6-5, 248-pound senior Ed Stanton starting and another freshman backing up, Dave Koch (6-2, 236).

Guards: The only returning regular in the LSU offensive line is right guard John Watson, a 6-3, 233-pound junior. He's backed by Miles Valentine (6-2, 220). The left guard is 6-3, 224-pound Tom Tully. Another freshman is in a backup role here, 6-1, 231-pound Mike Burks.

Center: John Ed Bradley, 6-3, 234-pound senior, has taken over the starting job, while Marty Dufrene, 6-1, 223, backs him up.

DEFENSE

LSU uses the same type defense as Alabama, a 5-2 front with the ends dropping off as linebackers in certain situations. The Tigers return lettermen two-deep in the line, count ends John Adams and Lyman White as among the best in the nation, and have a secondary that they consider to be a stronger area than end!

Ends: LSU is convinced that the only reason both John Adams and Lyman White weren't first team All-SEC last year is they were both on the same team. Adams was consensus first team, with Bama's Wayne Hamilton on one team and with the Tide's E. J. Junior on the other. Adams is 6-3, 224, a three-year letterman and has run a 4.6 40. White is a 6-0, 218-pound junior who runs the 40 in 4.8. Bill Farrell and Jay Blass, both in the 6-3, 210 range, are the backup men.

Tackles: Benjy Thibodeaux, 6-3, 236,

was the outstanding defensive player in last year's Liberty Bowl even though he was only a backup man at left tackle. Now he's got the starting job and he's backed by a freshman, 6-2, 247-pound Leonard Marshall. Senior Ivan Phillips (6-0, 238) and Junior Demetri Williams (6-1, 250) alternate at right tackle.

Noseguard: Any Alabamian who listened to the LSU-Southern Cal game should now be able to pronounce "George Atiyeh." He was in the Trojans' backfield almost enough to letter. Atiyeh, who was SEC heavyweight wrestling champion and winner of the outstanding performer award last year, is a 6-2, 254-pound cat-quick junior. He's backed by a freshman, 6-2, 234-pound Greg Bowser.

Linebacker: An area of concern at the beginning of the year because of a lack of numbers, it's not surprising that the most experienced men have won the starting jobs. Tommy Frizzell, a 6-1, 217-pound senior starts on the strong side, while 6-4, 220-pound junior Jerry Hill is number one at weakside. Soph Mike Johnson (6-0, 220) has moved up to number two behind Rizzell. The name to watch, however, is the weakside linebacker alternate, 5-11, 209-pound freshman Albert Richardson.

Secondary: The so-called "Soul Patrol" is back intact, but facing competition from freshmen, and that has to make this one of the strongest secondaries in the nation. The cornerbacks feature Chris Williams, a 6-0 junior who had eight interceptions (second in the nation) last year and freshman Alvin Thomas, who has moved up while returning starter James Britt is ailing. Senior Willie Teal, who has run a 4.38 40 and who has LSU's third-leading tackler last year, is the safety, while two-year letterman junior Marcus Quinn (6-0, 208) is the strong safety. Backup men include senior Rusty Brown at both safety spots, 6-4 freshman Scott Watson at strong safety and 5-10 freshman Efrem Coley, who has run a 4.3 40, at cornerback.

KICKING

Always an LSU strong point, the Tigers return John Adams (the defensive end) to punt. He's a consistent 40-yard man who gives opponents usually fewer than five yards per game return.

Don Barthel, a junior transfer who wasn't listed on LSU's pre-season roster, is handling the placekicking and has been very effective both as a scorer and kicking off. LSU opponents have been starting at their 20 if they down it, usually about the 17 if they try to run it out. ★

YOU'RE THE COACH

Alabama faces an offense that is not only imaginative, but also well-balanced in LSU. While Bama gets the vast majority of its yards and scoring out of the ground game, LSU strikes effectively by land and air.

1979 Cumulative Statistics

	BAMA	LSU
TEAM OFFENSE		
Rushes attempted	555	391
Yards gained	3139	1818
Yards lost	170	200
Net yards gained	2969	1618
Avg. gain per rush	5.3	4.1
Touchdowns	34	23
Passes attempted	80	186
Passes completed	39	85
Passes intercepted	7	8
Percentage	.487	.457
Total yards	630	1281
Touchdowns	4	5
Passes caught	39	85
Total yards	630	1281
Avg. gain per catch	16.1	10.6
Touchdowns	4	5
TEAM DEFENSE		
Rushes attempted	296	376
Yards gained	1089	1493
Yards lost	247	257
Net yards gained	842	1236
Touchdowns	2	7
Passes attempted	143	182
Passes completed	56	83
Passes intercepted	18	11
Percentage	.392	.456
Total yards	595	1129
Touchdowns	3	6
PUNTING		
Number	30	52
Yards	1120	1996
Avg.	37.3	38.4
Longest	70	54
FUMBLES/LOST	32/12	23/16
PENALTIES/ YARDS	31/269	36/330

INDIVIDUAL OFFENSE

Rushing	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
(BAMA) Shealy	89	602	6.8	9	64
(BAMA) Jacobs	71	438	6.2	3	73
(BAMA) Whitman	77	381	4.9	3	22
(BAMA) Ogilvie	59	345	5.8	8	26
(LSU) Gajan	99	476	4.8	4	29
(LSU) Ld. Jones	61	303	5.0	2	37
(LSU) Myles	54	206	3.8	6	22
(LSU) Soileau	32	169	5.3	0	14

Passing	PA	PC	PI	YDS	%	TD
(BAMA) Shealy	52	29	4	440	.558	2
(BAMA) Jacobs	22	9	2	177	.409	2
(LSU) Ensminger	109	50	4	732	.459	4
(LSU) Woodley	75	33	4	530	.440	1

Receiving	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
(BAMA) Pugh	13	231	17.7	1
(BAMA) Clark	5	79	15.8	0
(BAMA) Marks	4	118	29.5	1
(BAMA) Travis	4	68	17.0	1
(LSU) Carson	27	424	15.7	1
(LSU) Porter	17	256	15.1	0
(LSU) Murphree	8	85	10.6	1
(LSU) LaFleur	7	120	17.1	0

INDIVIDUAL DEFENSE

Tackles	Solo	Assisted	Total
(BAMA) Boyd	45	19	64
(BAMA) Hamilton	20	21	41
(BAMA) Scott	33	5	38
(BAMA) Wilcox	26	10	36
(LSU) White			77
(LSU) Atiyeh			66
(LSU) Hill			64
(LSU) Teal			56

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
(BAMA) R. Jones	3	18	6.0	0
(BAMA) Tucker	3	17	5.7	0
(BAMA) McNeal	3	12	4.0	0
(BAMA) Wilcox	3	9	3.0	0
(BAMA) 5 other	6	81	13.5	1
(LSU) Williams	3	0	0.0	0
(LSU) Teal	2	44	22.0	0
(LSU) Hill	2	22	11.0	0
(LSU) White	2	7	3.5	0

"I'M JUST TOO FULL OF ALABAMA"

by Mike Bolton

Alabama's Barry Krauss, Marty Lyons, Murray Legg and crew will long be remembered for a tackle they made January 1, 1979.

Alabama's Tommy Lewis will be long remembered for a tackle he made on January 1, 1954.

Before the details of that tackle are passed on again, there will be a slight pause for the facts about Tommy Lewis very few remember.

Alabama and Syracuse were matched together in Miami's Orange Bowl in what oddsmakers figured would be a decently close game.

Television viewers and stadium seat holders were thrilled as Alabama's Tommy Lewis scored to give Alabama a 7-6 first quarter lead and were still feeling well as he scored another to put Alabama ahead 14-6 in the second period.

Alabama opened the floodgates, however, and scored seven more in the second, 20 in the third and 20 more in the fourth. Alabama was leading 61-6 and had broken 12 national bowl records when an Orange Bowl official reportedly approached the keeper of the clock and hinted of an illegal speedup because the already three-hour old game was irking television officials.

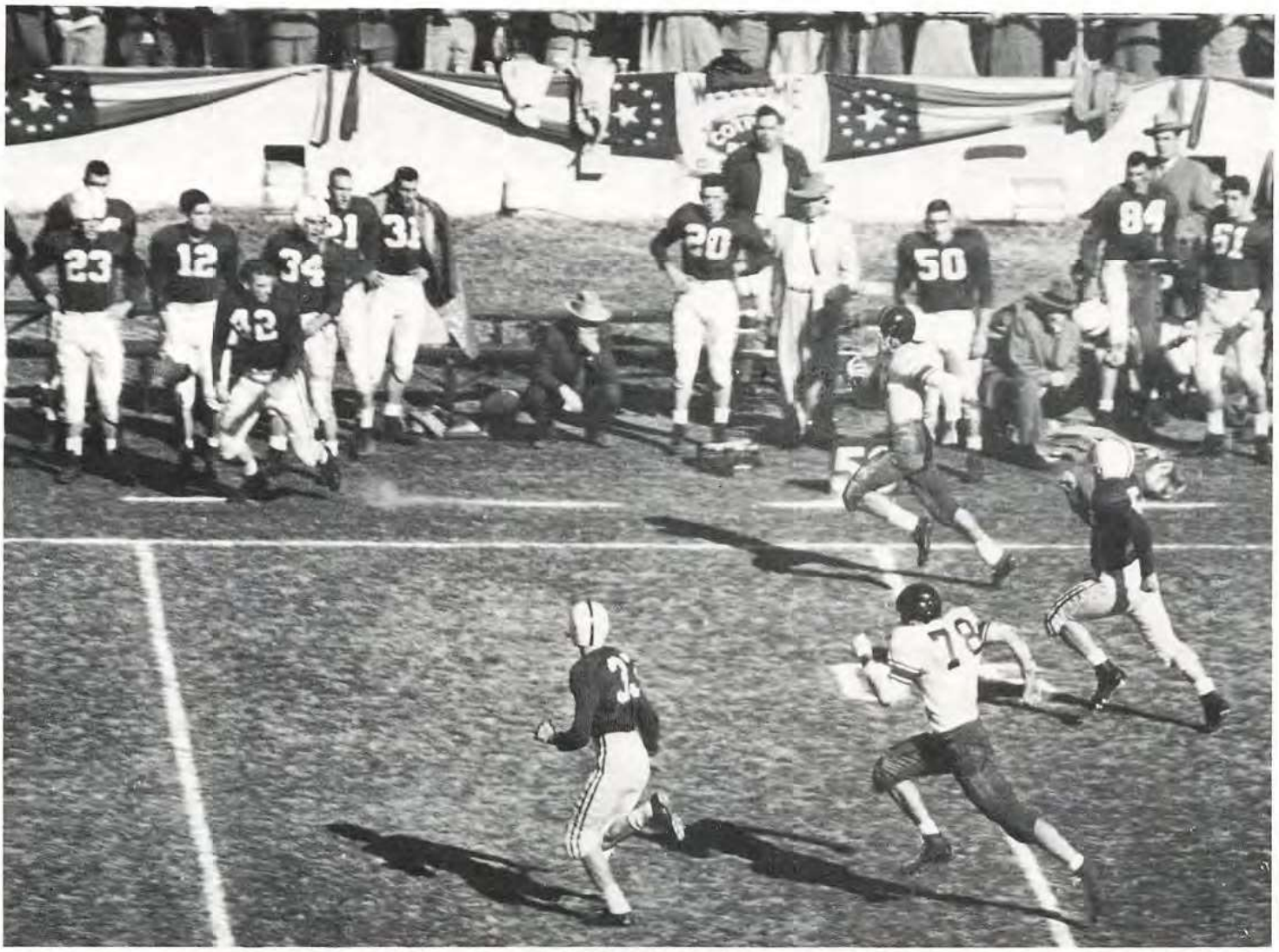
Lewis had scored two touchdowns to get the ball rolling and Greg Luna had added two himself. Hootie Ingram, now an officer with the Southeastern Conference, was one of several that had scored a single touchdown.

Clell Hobson, who would later have a son named Butch who would quarterback Alabama and play pro baseball with Boston, swapped the quarterbacking duties with a fellow named Bart Starr.

Lewis surely didn't break his string of

An outstanding running back for the Crimson Tide, Tommy Lewis is now remembered almost exclusively only for a tackle he made, coming off the bench in the 1954 Cotton Bowl.

—University of Alabama Photo



One of the most famous events in college football history was set up when Rice's Dickie Moegle raced down the Alabama sidelines, only to be tackled by Bama's Tommy Lewis (42), who came off the bench.
—Cotton Bowl Photo

making things happen in bowl games when Alabama traveled to the Cotton Bowl in 1954 to meet Rice.

The score was Rice 28, Alabama 6, and that would make a good trivia question because few remember the score that day. All remember Tommy Lewis' tackle.

Rice had scored and made an extra point to lead Alabama 7-6 as the half neared and it appeared there was an exciting second half of football approaching.

Rice was in its own territory when Dick Moegle took a handoff, found the middle blocked and headed to the sidelines. He turned the corner on the end and it appeared he was in for clear sailing until the end zone.

Moegle bit the dust hard.

Tommy Lewis had leaped helmetless from the sideline to bring him down.

"I saw him about the 35-yard line," Moegle remembered after the game. "I thought he had just dropped a helmet or something and it had rolled onto the field. He looked like he was looking for something.

"I had to watch the players chasing me and then I saw Lewis jump at me from the corner of my eye as I went past. He came up and apologized and said he let his emotions carry him away."

Moegle was awarded a 95-yard touchdown on the play and he was always asked the same question on thousands of occasions.

"I believe I would have made it," he always said. "I felt sorry for him."

Almost everyone who witnessed the episode agreed on one thing. It helped Rice and killed Alabama. Rice went on to victory behind Moegle's 265 yards in 11 carries and three touchdowns.

"I'm just too full of Alabama, he just ran too close," a tearful Lewis said after the game. "I kept telling myself 'I didn't do it, I didn't do it.' But I knew I had. I knew I would hear about it for the rest of my life."

Lewis went to Rice's dressing room at halftime to apologize to Moegle and he was accepted warmly. "My heart went out to him," Rice head coach and former Alabama assistant Jess Neely said.

Alabama coach Red Drew sent Lewis back in for the second half kickoff saying he thought it would be best for the upset youngster.

Lewis' genuinely broken heart touched the hearts of others who either witnessed or read about the event.

"Tommy Lewis, a genuine competitor even while on the bench, has committed a forgivable error that will live with him forever," The Dallas *Morning News* said in an unheard of front-page editorial.

"He quickly and abjectly apologized to Moegle and the Rice team and did it three more times, finally walking out of the stadium with his arm around Moegle.

"Texans know competitive spirit. We thrive on it. It might not be a bad idea to drop Tommy a line over at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and let him know he hasn't lost his last friend.

"He's quite a fighter—we like them that way in Texas."

Lewis got tons of mail because of what happened and almost all was encouraging.★

BAMA SCORECARD

Top Prepper

The November issue of *Track & Field News* lists Calvin Smith as the number one prep star in 1979 in both the 100 and 200 meters. Smith, from Bolton, Mississippi, is the prize track signee of John Mitchell's University of Alabama team. Smith helped set a junior world record in the 400-meter relay. He competed in five of the country's top prep invitational meets during the summer and won eight of nine sprint titles. As a member of the United States' Junior AAU team he won the 100 and 200 meter sprints twice in meets against the Soviet Union.

Cage Exhibitions

Alabama's basketball team gets its preseason exhibition games under way this week with an intrasquad game at Huntsville Wednesday at the Von Braun Civic Center. Tipoff is at 7 p.m. The game is sponsored by the Huntsville YMCA. Anyone needing particular information may contact coordinator Dave Sington in Huntsville at 553-4800.

The Montgomery Tipoff Club will sponsor a game at Alabama Christian College Gym at 7:30 p.m. November 13. Coordinator for that game is Neil Posey, 265-0511.

Bama will also play in its own Memorial Coliseum at 7:30 p.m. November 16.

The final pre-season exhibition will be at Birmingham's Boutwell Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. November 20. That game is sponsored by the Lions Club with Johnny Morris (252-9111) serving as coordinator.

Bama opens its regular season Friday, November 30 at 8 p.m. in the Birmingham-Jefferson County Civic Center Coliseum.

Hank Crisp

The 'A' Club is preparing a collection of favorite "Hank Crisp Stories" from his boys. Coach Hank, of course, was a longtime assistant football coach, head basketball coach, head track coach and director of athletics for the University and one of its most dedicated and colorful men. Anyone with a favorite story should send it (typed, handwritten or taped) to Harry Lee, Secretary-Treasurer, 'A' Club, P.O. Box 6172, Universty, AL 35486. There will be some expense involved in transcribing and printing the stories and donations for that purpose will be gratefully accepted.

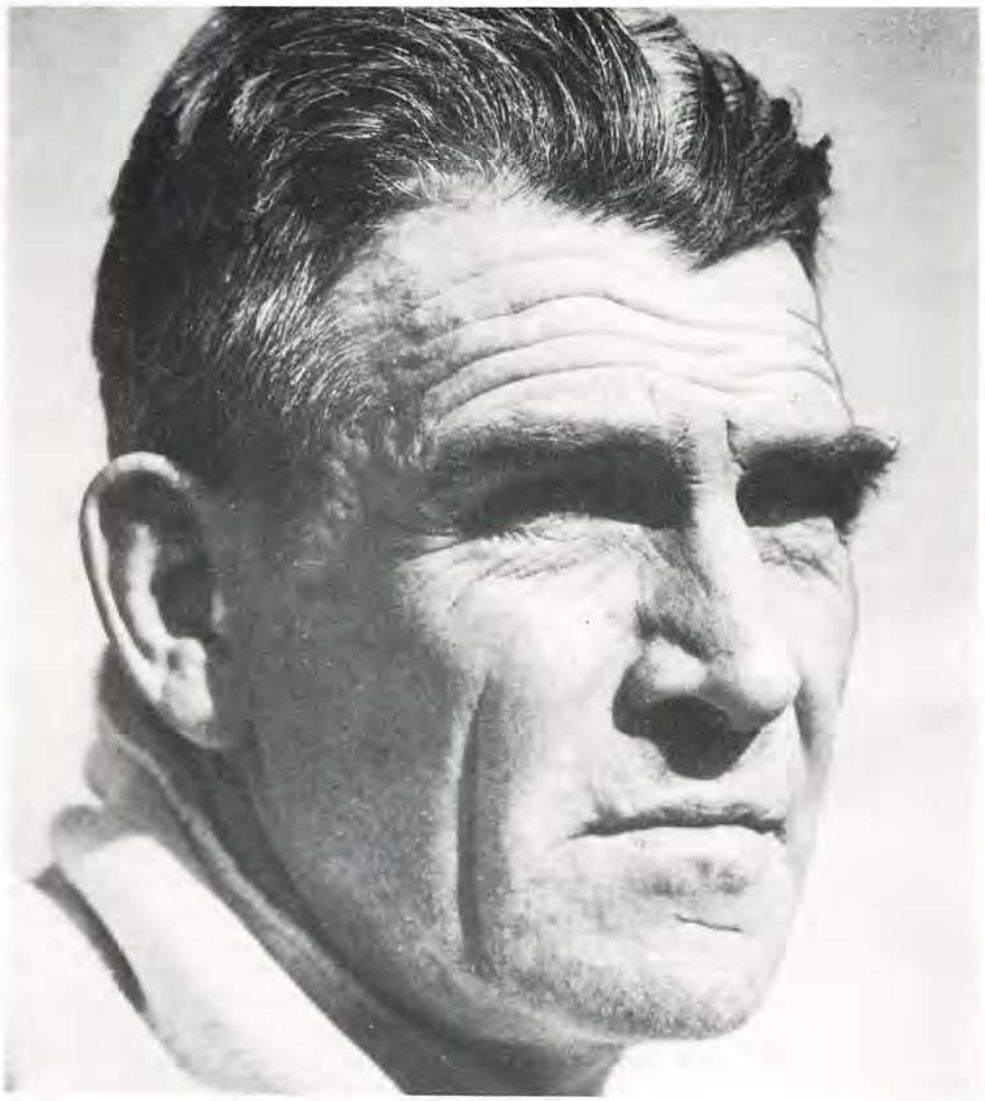
Golfers In Dixie

Alabama's golf team concludes its limited fall schedule November 15-17 in the Dixie Intercollegiate at Bull Creek Country Club in Columbus, Georgia. Bama is defending Southeastern Conference champion and coach Conrad Rehling's team is led by United States Amateur semifinalist Cecil Ingram, a junior from Birmingham.

Swimmers Open

Alabama, a national power through most of this decade under coach Don Gambril, opens its season in North Carolina next week. Bama will take on North Carolina at Chapel Hill on November 15, then go to Raleigh to meet North Carolina State November 16.

The Tide held an intrasquad meet recently with junior diver Wayne Chester (a former NCAA champion), soph sprinter Don Hornby and freshman distance freestyler Greg Higginson all winning two events each.



Hank Crisp served the University in numerous capacities and a favorite pasttime of "Coach Hank's Boys" over the years has been relating stories about their former coach. Now the 'A' Club wants to commit those stories to print.

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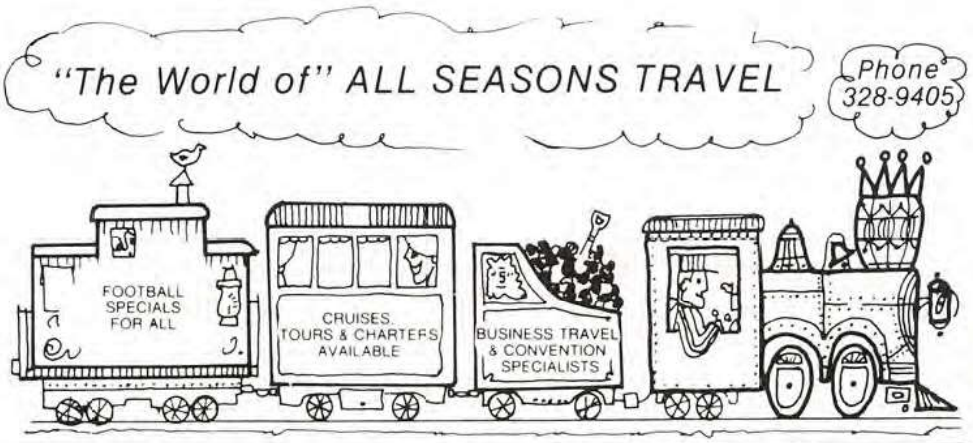
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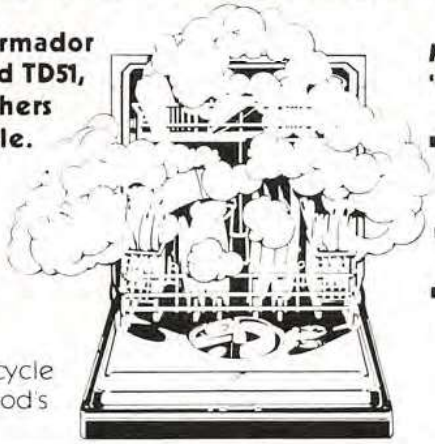

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AROUND THE LEAGUE

DATE	ALABAMA	AUBURN	FLORIDA	GEORGIA	KENTUCKY
Sept. 8	30 at Georgia Tech 6				
Sept. 15		26 KANSAS STATE 18	10 at Houston 14	21 WAKE FOREST 22	14 MIAMI (OH.) 15
Sept. 22	45 BAYLOR (B)* 0	31 S. MISS 9	7 GEORGIA TECH 7	7 at Clemson 12	10 at Indiana 18
Sept. 29	66 at Vanderbilt 3	17 at Tennessee 35	10 at Miss. State 24	20 S. CAROLINA 27	14 MARYLAND 7
Oct. 6	38 WICHITA STATE (T) 0	44 N.C. STATE 31	3 at LSU 20	24 at Ole Miss 21	6 at W. Virginia 10
Oct. 13	40 at Florida 0	52 VANDERBILT 35	0 ALABAMA 40	21 LSU 14	14 OLE MISS 3
Oct. 20	27 TENNESSEE (B) 17	38 at Georgia Tech 14		31 at Vanderbilt 10	19 at LSU 23
Oct. 27	31 VIRGINIA TECH (T) 7	38 at Wake Forest 42	10 TULSA 20	20 KENTUCKY 6	6 at Georgia 20
Nov. 3	24 MISSISSIPPI ST. (T) 7	19 FLORIDA 13	13 at Auburn 19	0 VIRGINIA 31	20 BOWLING GR 14
Nov. 10	at LSU	MISSISSIPPI ST.	GEORGIA (J)**	at Florida (J)**	at Vanderbilt
Nov. 17	MIAMI (T)	at Georgia	KENTUCKY	AUBURN	at Florida
Nov. 24			FLA. STATE		TENNESSEE
Dec. 1	AUBURN (B)	ALABAMA (B)	at Miami	at Georgia Tech	

DATE	LSU	OLE MISS	MISS. STATE	TENNESSEE	VANDERBILT
Sept. 8			13 MEMPHIS ST. (J)# 14		
Sept. 15	44 at Colorado 0	38 at Memphis St. 34		28 at Boston College 16	13 at Indiana 44
Sept. 22	47 RICE 3	7 MISSOURI (J)¢ 33	14 at Maryland 35	51 UTAH 18	14 CITADEL 27
Sept. 29	12 SOUTHERN CAL 17	8 S. MISS. (J) 38	24 FLORIDA (J) 10	35 AUBURN 17	3 ALABAMA 66
Oct. 6	20 FLORIDA 3	21 GEORGIA (O) 24	28 TENNESSEE (M) 9	9 at Miss. St. (M) 9	14 at Tulane 42
Oct. 13	14 at Georgia 21	3 at Kentucky 14	6 at Florida St. 17	31 GEORGIA TECH 0	35 at Auburn 52
Oct. 20	23 KENTUCKY 19	14 at S. Carolina 21	48 MARSHALL (S) 0	17 at Alabama (B) 27	10 GEORGIA 31
Oct. 27	19 FLORIDA STATE 24	63 VANDERBILT (O) 28	7 S. MISS. (S) 21		28 at Ole Miss (O) 63
Nov. 3	28 at Ole Miss 24	24 LSU (J) 28	7 at Alabama (T) 24	7 RUTGERS 13	13 MEMPHIS ST. 3
Nov. 10	ALABAMA	at Tulane	at Auburn	NOTRE DAME	KENTUCKY
Nov. 17	MISSISSIPPI ST.	TENNESSEE (J)	at LSU	at Ole Miss (J)	at Air Force
Nov. 24	at Tulane	at Miss. St. (J)	OLE MISS (J)	at Kentucky	
Dec. 1				VANDERBILT	at Tennessee

1979 STANDINGS	Conference	Overall
Alabama	4-0-0	8-0-0
Georgia	4-0-0	4-4-0
LSU	3-1-0	5-3-0
Auburn	2-1-0	6-2-0
Mississippi State	2-1-0	3-5-0
Tennessee	1-2-0	4-3-0
Kentucky	1-2-0	3-5-0
Ole Miss	1-3-0	2-6-0
Florida	0-4-0	0-6-1
Vanderbilt	0-4-0	1-7-0

*Alabama home games are played at Birmingham or Tuscaloosa
**At Jacksonville
¢Ole Miss home games are played at Jackson or Oxford
#Mississippi State home games are played at Jackson, Starkville or Memphis

THE RACE

Three games play a big part in the SEC race this week, Alabama at LSU; Florida and Georgia in the annual affair at Jacksonville; and Mississippi State at Auburn. The loser of the Auburn-State game drops out of the race. But, of course, Auburn is on probation and ineligible for the title at any rate.

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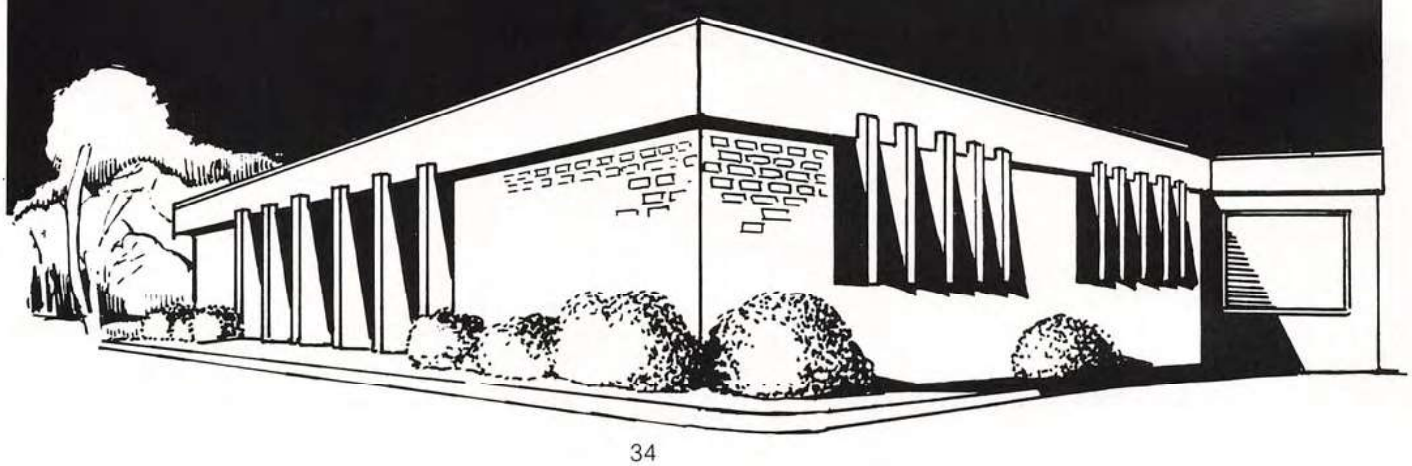

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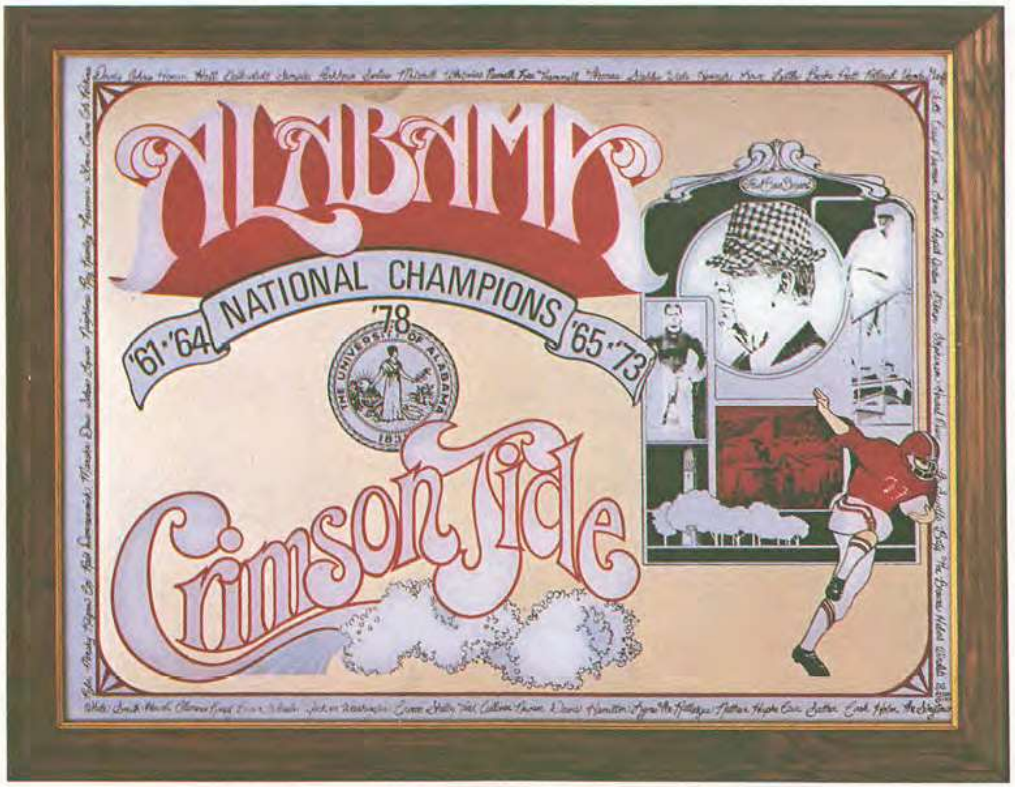

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